

Letter from Alexander Melville Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, February 21, 1876, with transcript

Home, February 21st, 76. (No envelope) My dear Al.,

Patent-packet registered to Toronto this morning. Your Uncle and I read it with interest, but it was beyond our knowledge. We can only see that the new point is very important. I have no data on which to found a judgment in reference to the House proposition. I don't know the position, duties or emoluments. It seems however an honor to be counted worthy to become successor to such a man; and it is very essential that a person in your position should have some certain income. The work can't be much out of your way, and any specialty in it you would, I fancy, take a pleasure in studying. On the whole I think you ought to thankfully accept the successorship if you get the offer officially. I had a letter two days ago from Mr. Niven enclosing copy of a long letter from Mr. Murray in China. I shall post it to you tomorrow, and in it I shall pack the stones. I think the letter will probably be safer if unregistered. You ought to get it on Thursday. So be on the lookout. The jeweler says there is no lapidary in Canada who can do the necessary preparation of the stones for setting! Our idea was to arrange the five stones thus—, but you can have them set in any way you prefer. I hope they will reach you in safety I shall address the letter "Boston University, 18 Beacon Street." Our house-mess is nearly over. Weather delightful. All well. Love from all to self and 2 Mabel.

Your affectionate father, A. M. B.